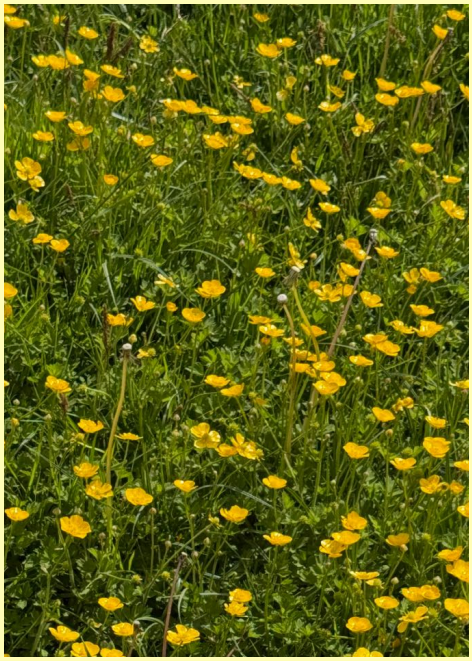
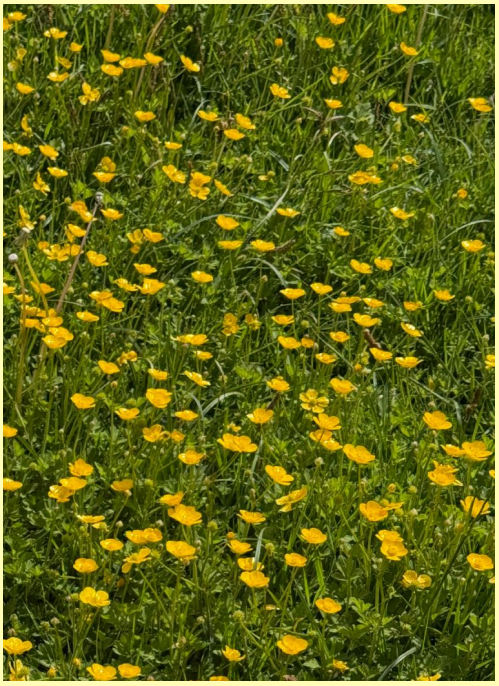
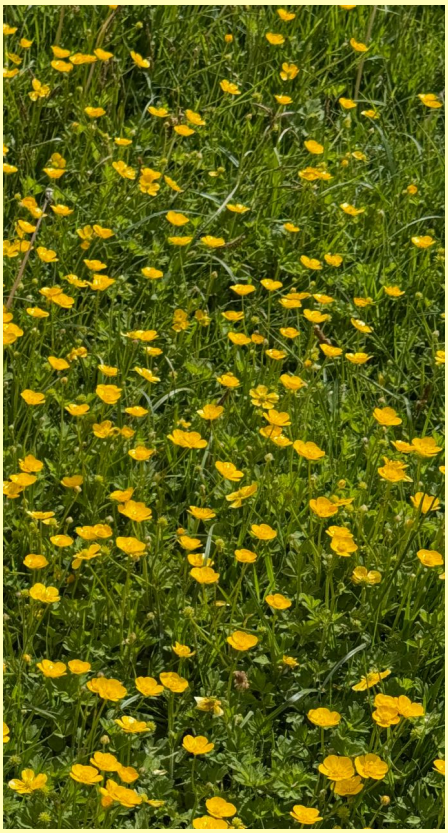
Ufford PUNCH

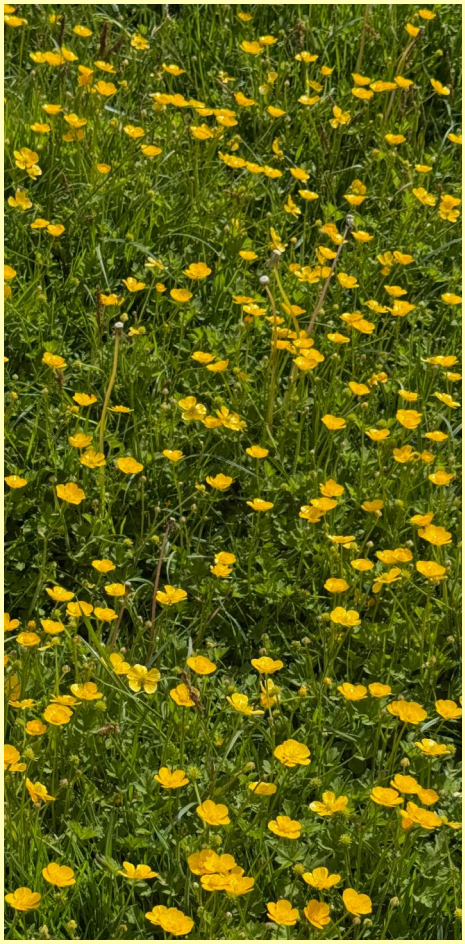
Issue 341

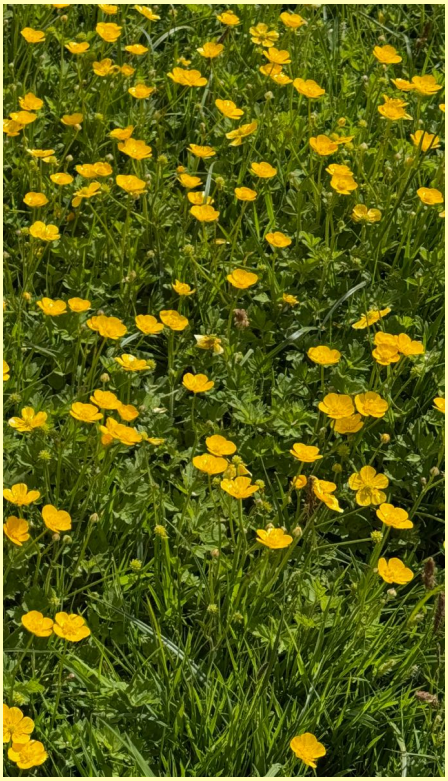
June 2025











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Welcome to the Ufford PUNCH

From the Editor

The first thing you might notice is that your Punch is heavier than usual this month. The second thing is that bits fall out. No, we're not adding a new Style or Travel section, so what's happening here?

One of these inserts was provided by the Neighbourhood Plan steering group and the other by property developer Landex (you can find out more on the next page). We at the Punch are just the postmen and, as the adoption of the Neighbourhood Plan is an issue for the whole village to vote on, we are not offering an opinion. We are neutral, like Switzerland without the money, and we haven't even seen the inserts yet.

However ... just hold the reins because I'm going to climb up on my familiar high horse for a minute. How high is the horse? So high it could win the Grand National without needing to jump. What I would say (speaking personally) is that a lot of volunteers have worked hard on the Neighbourhood Plan, so whether you're a yeigh or a neigh sayer, it behooves you, gentle reader, to trot down on the 26th June and vote in the referendum.

There, the horse did so well, he's taking over the editing of this issue. So any complaints, tell them to the horse.

Kevin Young

Have you heard it on the PUNCHLINE?

Get the latest village news first via our digital newsletter 'PUNCHLine'.

If there is anything you want to broadcast, write your message and send it in Monday - Saturday for circulation to all our subscribers as soon as possible.

To subscribe, or broadcast news, email punchline@uffordpunch.org.uk

Cover photo by the editor

Ufford PUNCH July 2025

Deadline for submissions to submissions@uffordpunch.org.uk

13th June 2025

Ufford Neighbourhood Plan News

The Ufford Neighbourhood Plan LATEST NEWS

Great news….Ufford's Neighbourhood Plan has been found by East Suffolk Council and the independent Examiner to pass the necessary legal tests. You will now have your chance to vote in a referendum on Thursday 26th June as to whether the Plan should be adopted. If more than 50% vote in favour, then it will be considered by a meeting of East Suffolk Council for formal adoption on 16th July.

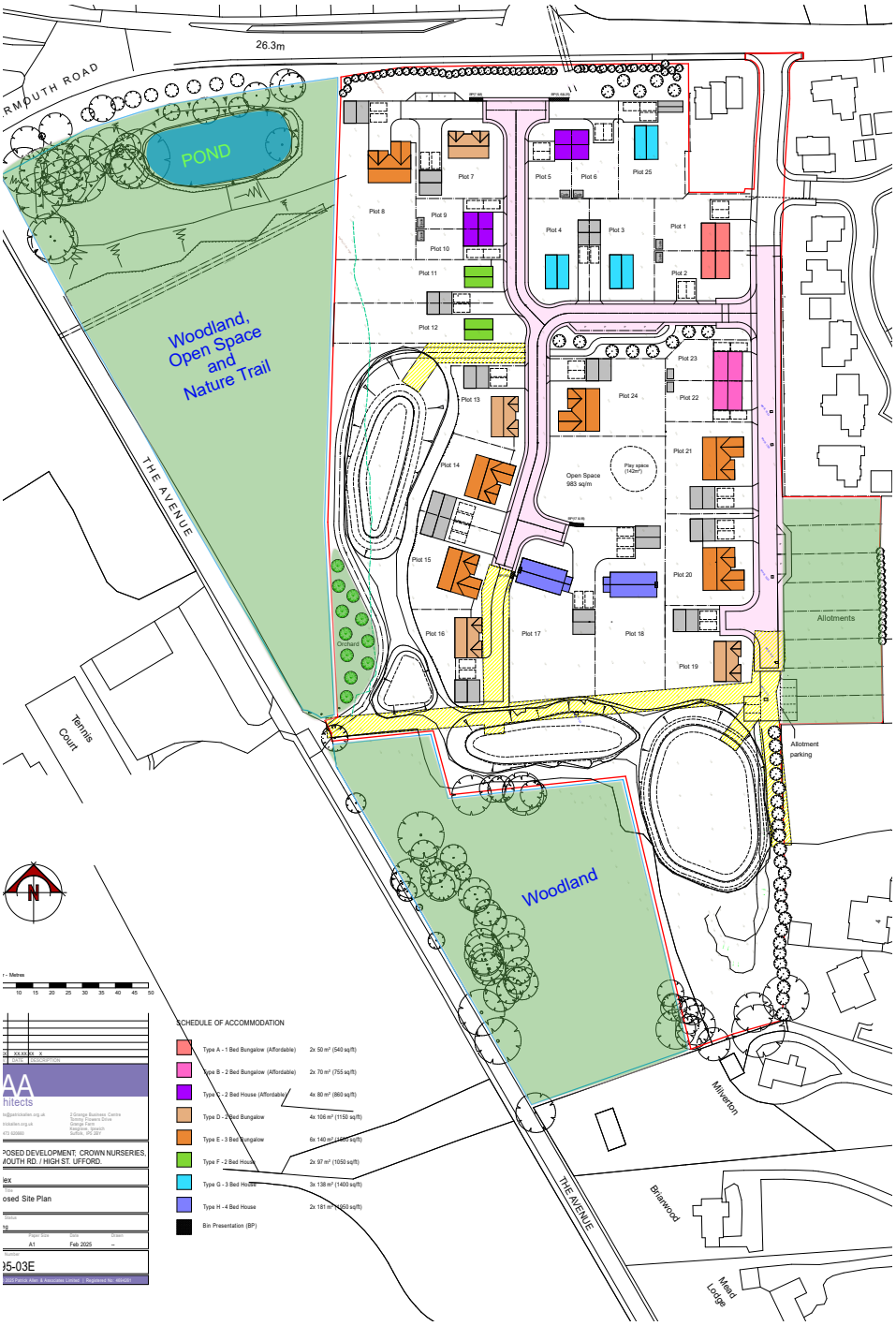
But what's happening at the Crown Nursery Site?

It was clear from the Household survey (2022) and the Exhibition (2024) that the village was not happy for the land, next to Goldsmiths, to be developed as a business park. The overwhelming opinion was in favour of a housing development on this site. So one of the Neighbourhood Plan policies (UFF16) features an outline proposal for 20 to 25 houses on this site.

Nigel Smith, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group comments 'A housing scheme would be much more fitting in a rural village like Ufford and would generate significant funds for village projects through Community Infrastructure Levy monies paid by the developer on the development, whereas the business park would not.'

In recent months, some of our members have been talking to Landex, the site owner and developer. Together they are preparing a scheme for 25 dwellings, mainly 2 and 3 bedroom houses and bungalows. Eight of these would be affordable homes with priority given to local people. The good news is that Ufford Parish Council would manage the two small areas of woodland and open space adjacent to The Avenue.

The current scheme proposal includes allotments, a community orchard and a cycleway/ footpath, linking the High Street/School Lane with the Community Hall, reducing the need for pedestrians to use The Avenue.



'Wildlife is abundant in the woodland and open space area. With the pond, this would make an ideal site for a nature trail' Rilla Forge (Parish Councillor and Chair of Friends of Parklands Wood).

Landex, who built the Goldsmiths development, is a Suffolk-based business, focused on smaller scale developments. They have a reputation for quality housing schemes, employing their own local labour. Dan Davies, Managing Director, comments 'We are pleased to be working with Ufford Parish Council and the NP Steering Group on this worthwhile project, that will offer opportunities for more people to enjoy living in this rural village'.

You will be able to view and comment on the scheme at a public exhibition on Saturday 7th June at the Ufford Community Hall.

What are the benefits of this joint proposal for the Crown Nursery site?

- Provides low density quality housing on an attractive site
- Affordable homes with priority given to local residents
- Generates significant funding for Ufford Parish Council to spend on village projects
- Preserves woodland and open space habitats
- Creates allotments and community orchard for the village
- Improves access to Community Hall from High Street and School Lane

David Findley, Chair of Ufford Parish Council, explains 'Many residents told us through surveys and at exhibitions that they really wanted quality housing rather than business units on the Crown Nursery Site. This scheme provides just that'.

Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Nick Apperley Rides Again!

And you can ride along with him

Relax! This isn't a cross-country marathon like last year's 444 mile Suffolk to Sennen ride, it's a leisurely 15-mile evening cycle ride, starting and finishing at the Ufford Crown and taking in Campsea Ashe, Blaxhall and Tunstall. And at the end of the trail you can enjoy drinks and a supper at the Crown (pork belly ciabatta or vegetarian option for £10)

The ride takes place on Thursday 12th June 2025, starting at 6.30pm. To enable some idea of numbers please RSVP to eveningcycle1@gmail.com. A £10 donation in support of MND charities would be appreciated (donations and supper payments will be collected at the event)

Nick, who was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease in 2023, has a busy schedule for 2025 as he closes in on his target of raising £50,000 for MND charities. In May he attended the myname5doddie's bi-annual scientific advisors conference, and the same charity have invited him (and Jill) to take his trike to Ireland and join Kenny Logan and a celebrity group on their 555-mile cycle around Ireland. For more details you can visit his charity page at https://www.givewheel.com/fundraising/1930/nicks-fundraising (or type nick apperley givewheel into your browser).

Please reserve Saturday 26th July 2025 as the White Lion pub will be hosting a grand charity bingo night in the marquee to raise money for charities supported by Nick.

The event is in the early stages of planning but will include Suffolk's best bingo with local celebrity callers and lots of prizes. The night will include Stand-up Sit-down bingo. A hot and cold buffet will be served - plus a tasty pud. Tickets are £30 per person, with £10 going direct to Nick's charities. It begins at 7pm.

More details to follow in the July Punch. Tickets are available at the White Lion or email info@uffordwhitelion.co.uk

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Tales of Olde Ufford

Sibling rivalry, a pig and a pot of peas.

One cold, dark December evening in 1867, brothers Isaac and James Noy were settled by the fire of the Lion pub in Ufford. They had been drinking harmoniously in this manner for about five hours when a dispute arose between them concerning a pig. History does not record what it was about this pig that could have caused such strife, but nevertheless, it proved to be the catalyst for the almighty fight that followed.

Mrs Patrick, the landlady of the pub, claimed to have seen the whole thing. It was James, the younger and more inebriated of the two, who pushed and aggravated his brother, but after a brief attempt to warn him off, it was Isaac who first beat his sibling. The brothers then took their fight into the pub's tap room where they battled fiercely, so that Mrs Patrick feared for the safety of her saucepan of cooking peas.

Inevitably perhaps, it was James who came off worst from the fight and he spent several days recovering. However, he would not stay down for long. He took his brother to court where the whole sorry tale was recounted. After all of the testimonies were heard, the Bench said that it was regrettable to see such a case between brothers, and both were to blame for the fight. Nevertheless, because James had received the greater injury, Isaac was fined 2s. 6d.

What lessons can we take in the modern day from these, our village ancestors? Well, as all good people know, fighting is never the answer and we should always behave with the utmost civility in the pub. Also, if you do find yourself in the pub arguing with your sibling about a pig, it's probably time to go home.

Helen Paxton

Jane and Mike Hawthorne - Thank You from the Friends of Parklands Wood Team

Jane and Mike recently retired from the team and have moved to Woodbridge. To mark this event and to show our appreciation for all their work, the group presented Jane and Mike with a thank you card and a Notcutts voucher to spend on their new garden.

Jane was instrumental in the Parish Council purchasing Parklands Wood a decade ago from the District Council. She organised funding and set up the volunteer group.

The woods have been greatly improved over this ten-year period in terms of recreational environment and habitat biodiversity. Notable milestones have been the Lottery-funded magnificent carved animal trail and achieving runner up position in the East Suffolk Quality of Place Awards.

We are now entering our second decade and have submitted our next ten-year Woodland Management Plan to the Forestry Commission for assessment. Following a site visit they approved our plan which now moves on to the grant approval stage. We are pleased that the woods will continue to be a vital part of Ufford life.

Barry Searle

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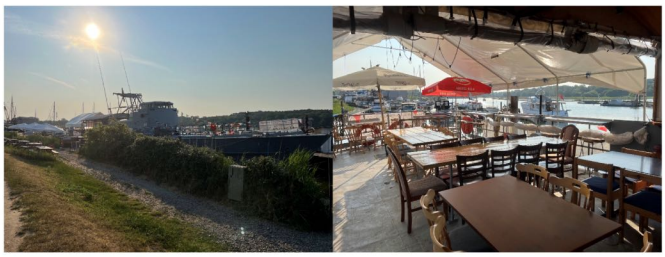

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Dr Sam Newton - Wednesday 18th June 7:30pm
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Open Mic Night - Thursday 19th June 7pm

Ufford White Lion Golf Day - Friday 20th June
For details contact Karl Mallett karl@cfbuk.org

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Please check our website for details of our events: www.uffordwhitelion.co.uk

Greetings From KINOSAKI

Kinosaki is a beautiful town nestled in the hills of Northern Honshu in Japan, famed for its Onsen, or hot spring baths. Of all the destinations on our recent trip, Kinosaki Onsen was the one I was least looking forward to. I've always had an aversion to saunas, jacuzzis or any other activity which requires taking your socks off. The Japanese bath is a communal activity steeped in tradition, with specific rules and rituals to follow. Oh, and you are not allowed to wear anything except a tiny towel which you place … on top of your head. Yet somehow I was inveigled into walking the streets in a yukata (a cotton kimono) and then the next thing I knew I was disrobing in a room filled with Japanese men (baths are segregated by sex).

Entering the shower room and trying not to make any mistakes, I followed my neighbour carefully, copying his every move until I realised from his annoyed expression that staring at him was probably the worst faux-pas I could commit. Fortunately at this point I fell off my shower stool which made him laugh and defused the situation. As experienced travellers know, falling over can get you out of a lot of tricky situations.

Then I went outside and plunged into a rock pool amongst the trees, up to my neck in scalding translucent water and poaching slowly like a lobster. I dislike words like 'transformative' but … well it was a Dionysian experience that I'm glad I didn't miss.

Kevin Young

Ufford Art History Group Visits St Mary the Virgin

The Sistine Chapel with Michelangelo's painted ceiling was very much in the news in May; the Grand Conclave taking place there after the death of Pope Francis. However, how many of you know that we have our very own beautifully painted ceiling in an 11th century Grade I listed church tucked away in a rolling Suffolk valley?

St Mary's is the estate church of Heveningham Hall and has over the centuries received substantial patronage from the Hall's many wealthy owners. In 1848 William Holland came to St. Mary's as Rector. He was an advocate of the Victorian Oxford Movement which, amongst other things, promoted a move away from the puritanical, sparsely furnished, whitewashed church to one of vibrant decoration. Fortunately Mildred, his wife, was a very gifted artist who, inspired by having spent the previous eight years on a European Grand Tour, planned, designed and executed a truly stunning redecoration of the church.

In 1856 the church closed for eight months and local tradesmen erected scaffolding to give Mildred access and according to legend she lay on her back, just like Michelangelo, transforming the ceiling into what we see today.

Three years later she embarked on the even greater task of painting the nave, with the scaffold finally being taken down in 1866. Records show that the cost of repairing and painting the nave roof was £246.10.6d. Our guide said that in 2005, aided by a National Lottery grant, the cost of restoring the painted roof was £750,000!

Mildred died In 1878 and is buried alongside her husband in the church graveyard. A novel, *The Huntingfield Paintress* by Pamela Holmes, tells her story.

Gravestone of Rev and Mrs Holland

Alex Bennett

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Having One Nell of a Time - Apart From The Stomach Bugs

Nell Atkinson, 19, of School Lane, brings us up to date with her travels around south east Asia. She departed Ufford in March and is having the time of her life, though it's not all authentic meals, stunning views and exotic cocktails.

Since leaving Cambodia my friends and I have embarked on a new journey through Thailand, starting in Bangkok and exploring the vibrant Khao San Road for all of ten minutes before opting to get our nails done and have an early night!

Then we ventured further north to Chiang Mai for a very memorable night out on the town with a checklist entailing straight arm drinking (you can well imagine things got messy) licking a stranger's face and other various 'in club tasks' that I won't bore you with or perhaps, 'disgust you with' is more accurate.

The beauties Chiang Mai had to offer were numerous, from the sticky waterfalls to the stunning Thai cooking class in the middle of rolling rice fields and mountains. Pai was next with tipsy tubing - foam parties and free shots whilst floating down a river on an inflatable ring… hilarity ensued.

Then came Krabi; after a dip in the sea with the breathtaking backdrop of the white jungle-encrusted cliffs we hopped on a ferry to Koh Phi Phi, a small but outrageously gorgeous island home to the reggae bar where Sophie and I were set to face off in a not so friendly boxing match.

Alas after one night of frivolity, watching some boxing matches and getting excited for our own match the next evening, horror struck. I spent the early hours of the next morning hugging the toilet in our hostel room as yet another bacterial infection caused by sea water ingestion in Krabi - we had no idea the shoreline was such a breeding ground for bacteria.

Twenty four hours later Sophie succumbed while Evelyn had been poorly for days... Each of us ended up in hospital. After a trying couple of days we were desperate to escape and so left for Koh Lanta to regain our strength on a much quieter island.

And now at last after ten hours of ferries and vans we have arrived at a haven, Koh Tao. After endless rain in Koh Lanta keeping us cooped up the sun makes an excellent comeback , and we were welcomed to Koh Tao by a dolphin flipping out of the water!

Koh Tao is on the east side of Thailand and is ridiculously beautiful and full of hidden coves, with delicious food and most of all lush jungle! We are braving the famous Escobar jungle party soon and can't wait for treehouses and 5 stages of different music sets!

I am feeling much recovered. My friends are still suffering, but morale is much higher and there is still so much to look forward to in Koh Samui and the Philippines.

Alas, Poor Yorick!

He forgot to get his tickets to the Ufford performance before they sold out

The Play's the Thing: A One Person Hamlet - will be gracing the stage at St Mary's Parish Hall, Ufford, for the final performance of its hugely acclaimed national tour following a week at Wilton's Music Hall in London, where Rufus Norris, Artistic Director of the National Theatre, described actor Mark Lockyer's performance as 'extraordinary.'

Mark Lockyer, performer

First performed in 1603, *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark* is probably the best known of William Shakespeare's works, and may well be the most famous English-language play ever written.

The story of how it comes to be performed on the tiny stage of our parish hall - the only performance in Suffolk - involves a couple of post-punk Uni mates, a lifelong friendship and a love for Suffolk, its people and its unique culture. Play director Fiona Laird reveals why she chose Ufford to host the final performance in 2025 of the Bard's ultimate tale of madness, deceit and revenge.

Fiona writes: 'I am so thrilled to be bringing my production of Hamlet to Ufford - it's a really lovely thing to be doing for both personal and professional reasons. First of all, Amanda Baker (of Lower Road), and I were at University College London (UCL) together in the '80s and were great friends. We shared a flat in Camden and both worked behind the bar in the Bloomsbury Theatre to make ends meet - we were even in a play or two together - and we've been friends ever since.

Fiona Laird, director

Second, my husband George and I have a boat that spends the winter in Woodbridge and the summer in Orford, so we spend a lot of time in Suffolk and it will be great to be able to invite all our local friends along to Ufford. It is going to be the most perfect way to end this first season of our tour - with old friends, in Suffolk.

And HERE [below] are two photos of me and Amanda, taken at almost exactly the same time (1985?) - both in the Bloomsbury theatre where we worked behind the bar!'

Tickets for this one-off show of Hamlet can only be purchased (cash ONLY) directly from Andy Gardner via email andygardn@googlemail.com. They cost £15 and all the proceeds go directly to the National Youth Arts Trust.

Ad News: Punch Welcomes the Garden Cafe

Welcome to our new advertiser Kirsty, who manages the Garden Cafe, at Swanns Garden Centre. Kirsty comes from a catering background and has been at the Cafe for seven years, which used to be called Blackberry Cafe. Since the name change, she has worked hard to create more space outside for customers. All food is prepared and cooked on the premises, with a wide menu. Kirsty has further plans for the cafe and hopes to change the menu regularly to reflect the seasons. See Page 8.

Sue Wright

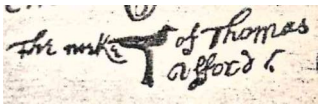
An Ufford in Ufford

In June 1632, just 12 years after the voyage of the Mayflower, the Rev. Thomas Hooker's 'Braintree Company' of Pilgrims set sail from Gravesend on the Lyon, arriving in Boston in September. It was the fourth and last journey for the Lyon (she would be sunk on a reef in 1633). On board was one Thomas Ufford, son of John Ufford, born 1590 in Newbourne and travelling with his wife, two sons and a daughter.

Nearly four hundred years later, his direct descendant Sherry McEwin (born Sherry Ufford) is retracing the steps of her ninth great grandfather with a visit to Ufford and Newbourne from Texas, as part of a tour of the British Isles with her husband, brother-in-law and sister-in-law.

It is her first trip outside America and it's going well: 'So far our trip has been delightful. Everyone has been so friendly, there is so much history here. The architecture is beautiful. It does make we wonder why my great grandparents wanted to leave the beauty here to move to America'. Ufford won out over London: 'London is a very busy city. Ufford was more like home, it was a very quaint village . We live in a small country town'. Lunch at the Crown was 'delicious'. There was a caveat - we locals do have to brush up on our knowledge: 'I was surprised that when I asked two people where the Ufford Trail started, they couldn't tell me'. That will be a question in the next pub quiz, by the way. The other disappointment: 'I wish I could have found some other Uffords or some more information about Thomas. Just maybe I could make another trip some day'.

It is an anomaly that Thomas Ufford is celebrated by the many Uffords spread across the USA as one of the first Europeans to settle in America, but is unknown in the land of his birth. Born just a three hour walk from our village, he moved to Nazeing in the early 1620s which would explain how he ended up travelling with fellow Essex passengers. As he used a mark as his signature we can assume he was unable to read or write, unlike a surprising 30% of the population at the time, so he probably travelled as a workman rather than a gentleman. He obviously prospered in America - moving from Roxbury to settle the new town of Milford in 1644, his estate listed lands in Milford and Stratford amounting to £289 12s and 7d.



How or whether he was related to the medieval Uffords is pure speculation. The first recorded Lord of Ufford was actually Roger Bigot, while the first of the Ufford family line was his sub-tenant who some time before 1256, perhaps presumptuously, had himself renamed Robert de Ufford. His son, also named Robert, added Orford Castle to the family portfolio, while his grandson (yes, Robert) lifted the Uffords from local nobility to the national stage as a protégé of Edward III, and was made Earl of Suffolk in 1337. His son William inherited the title, but he was the last of the direct line and the title ended with him. From there the trail goes cold for nearly 300 years until Thomas climbed aboard the Lyon.

Kevin Y

Sherry with her husband Dale

Ufford Gardening Club News

Salvias: a talk by Luci Skinner

As someone who has found salvias a somewhat difficult plant to grow, I was pleased to re-invite Luci, past manager of 'Wootens' of Wenhaston, to give a talk to our club on the subject. Luci is always a welcome guest as her knowledge of horticulture is vast and her talks are detailed and informative. She also always brings some choice plants to sell which go down well with the members.

Luci began by explaining that salvia was one of the largest genera of plants in the sage family, Lamiaceae, which also includes lavender, thyme, rosemary, nepeta monarda and perovskia. The name salvia means 'to heal' and many of the species have been used in the past to ease sore throats and fevers and to aid digestion.

Many members of salvia have trichomes (hairs) growing on the leaves, stems and flowers. Sometimes these are glandular and secrete volatile oils that typically give a distinct aroma to the plant. When the hairs are rubbed or brushed, some of the oil-bearing cells are ruptured, releasing the oil.

There are three groupings of salvia

- **Shrubby**, an example being the ever popular 'Hot Lips'; these appreciate a potassium feed from May and a light prune throughout the year to keep them in check.
- **Tuberous**, such as 'Salvia Patens', which are seldom hardy and need to be treated like dahlias and lifted for the cold months. Cut them back in early spring and give a seaweed feed from May.
- **Herbaceous**, such as 'Amistad' which die back in the winter and return in the spring, however they can be short lived.

Ninety percent of salvias need full sun and, light, well drained soils but salvia 'Nemorosa' or 'Woodland Sage' is a very hardy perennial and will tolerate some shade and moist soils. Some are drought tolerant such as S. Argentea or 'Silver Sage'; however this also tends to be short lived and it may help to cut the stem off before they go to seed.

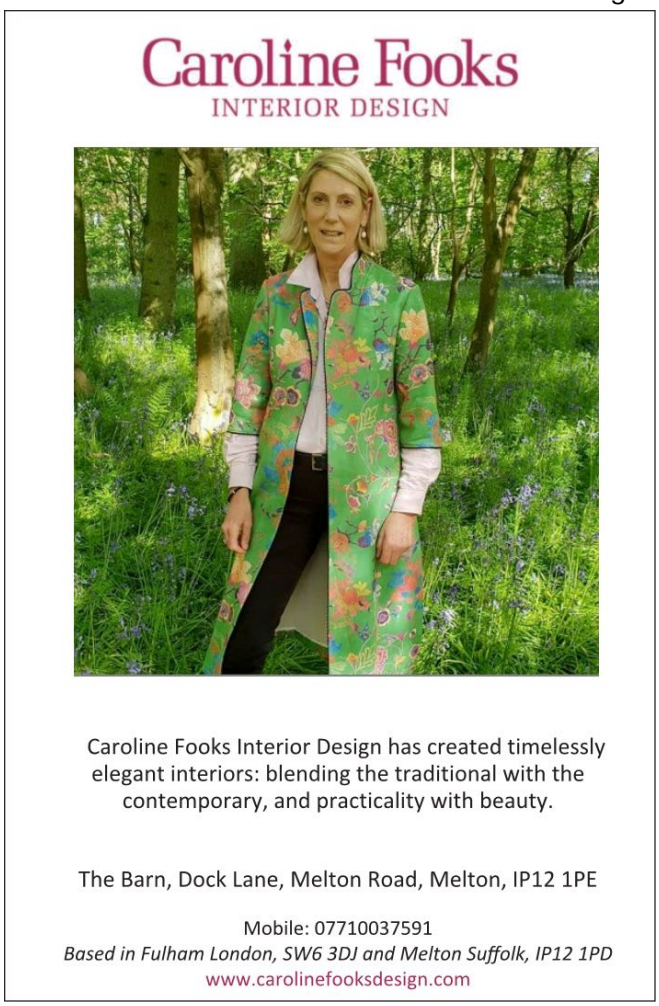
I understood salvia care much better after this talk and shall try again with the beautiful blue Salvia Patens which I was pleased to pick up at Woodbridge market recently.

Ros Conway

Ufford Gardening Club Plant Sale

As usual, your intrepid reporter turned up thirty intrepid minutes late for the sale, at which point many of the best plants had gone, but there was still a good collection to choose from and, of course, some excellent cake and tea available. It was also a great chance to use real cash, and in addition to a tomato plant and a squash I picked up enough change to feed the parking meters for a month.

Sheila Creswick, committee secretary, wrote: 'The Gardening Club committee took care of everything, set up, take down, teas, coffee, made all the cakes (!!) etc. Summer Show brochures were handed out at the door and Andy managed to sell a couple of tickets. Thanks to all those who generously donated plants to sell. We made a total so far (still some stuff on Rilla's front garden) of £555.50 [rounded up to £600] in aid of Alzheimers Research'.

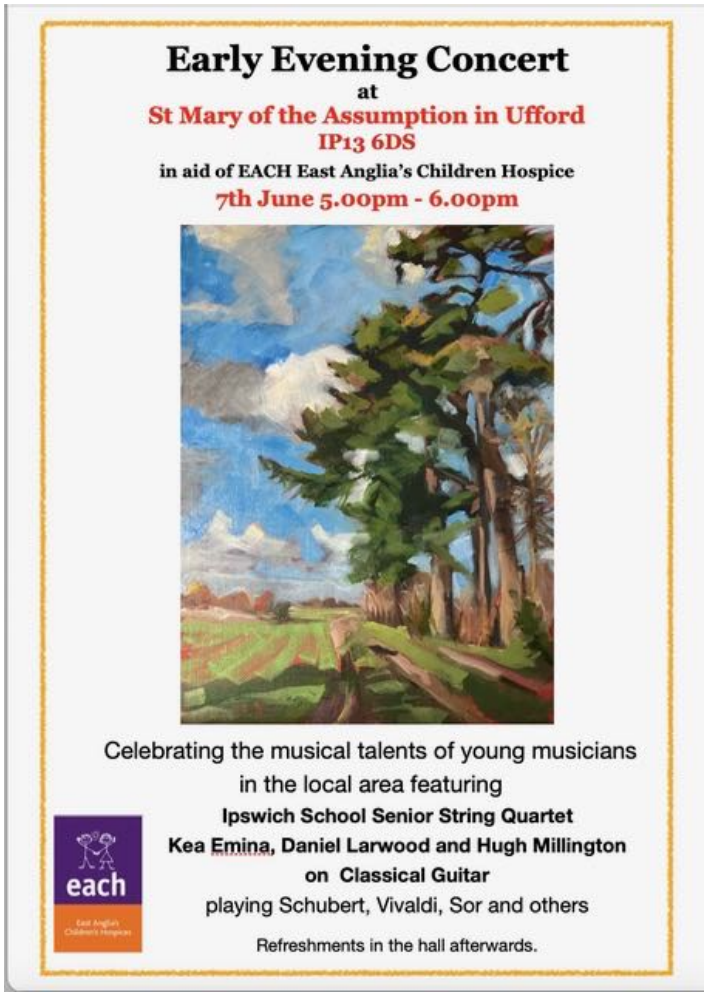


Nature Notes by Chris Reading

This month, I feature the common redstart. I had not seen one for years, then saw four within a week, including a pair in Tunstall Forest and one perched on a fence post at the bottom of our garden. It's a spring visitor; arriving in April and departing through September and October to spend the winter in trans-Saharan Africa. The male is a handsome chap about the size of a robin but slimmer and more elegant, pinkish red below with a black face, silver forehead, grey back and a striking red tail, which gives the bird its name; start being an ancient word for tail. The female prefers more muted colours of oranges and browns but retains the red tail. Redstarts inhabit deciduous woodland where they feed on insects and spiders, with berries and other fruits for afters. They find a suitable vantage point and swoop down on their prey from above. During the breeding season, the male often puts on a display of aerobatics to lead predators away from the nest. Redstarts can be found throughout the UK and are amber listed for conservation.

Photo: John Richardson

Nature Knowledge: Another spring visitor is the common cockchafer, also known as the maybug, a species of scarab beetle. But this little critter hasn't breezed in from Africa; it's been slowly developing underground for three years, through the three stages of its life cycle. In the first stage they are 10-20mm long but have grown to 40-45mm long before they emerge from the ground. They feed on deciduous plant and fruit tree leaves, including oaks, maple, sweet chestnut, beech, plum, and walnut. They can cause severe damage to plants such as grain, grass and beet. The larvae feed on roots, often killing the plant. But don't panic, friend moley's favourite snack is fresh cockchafer larvae on rye with a hint of mustard, which helps control their numbers.



Ufford Carpet Bowls Club 2025

Winner John Bygrave and runner-up Bob Wright being presented with their cups by ex-member Anne Sayer at Ufford Carpet Bowls Club.

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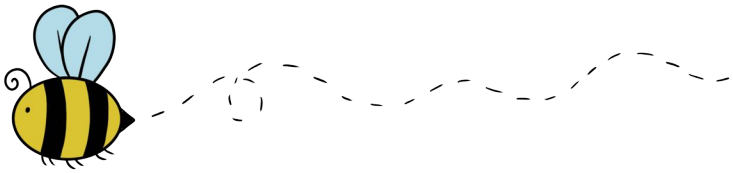

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Happy Easter to all our Readers

You can always rely on the Punch for fresh, breaking news. Well most of the time. Due to the vagaries of scheduling, this one missed the May edition. On a sunny Easter weekend, children gathered at the Crown to gather eggs laid by the Easter Hen and hidden by the Easter Bunny with help from Polly. We believe that at the time of going to press none of the eggs survived. Pictures courtesy of Helen Jones

We've Arrived

A warm welcome to Cressida and Andrew, who just moved in to the village

Hi everyone!

We moved to Gildenhurst in Lower Ufford in early April having previously lived in North-East London for 40 years. We have been planning a move to Suffolk since 2018, initially looking around the Waveney Valley area. After a year of fruitless searching, we started to look further South.

At Christmas, having sold up and with the completion date looming, we were getting twitchy. Then we spotted Gildenhurst. We viewed on January 3rd and offered that day. Everyone talks about 'the feeling' but we were starting to think it didn't exist until we saw this place. We love a 70s house! We fell for the feeling of space, light and the beautiful garden. Lunch and a cheeky Wherry in the White Lion sealed the deal!

The main reason for our move is to spend more time working creatively and we now have space to do that. Andrew is a furniture designer with his own business making retail fixtures. I had a business in the fashion industry for many years but am now an artist working in print.

Our son Ezra is following in his Dad's footsteps, studying Furniture/Product Design in Newcastle. He is taking a year out next year so will be back living with us and working with Andrew. Our daughter, Cicely is doing an MA in Graphic Communication at Central St Martins alongside working for the London Centre for Book Arts.

We first stayed in Ufford during Lockdown but it was hard to get a full sense of it then. Since moving here, we realise just how special it is. Not only beautiful but an amazing community. We've been lucky enough to meet some lovely neighbours and we feel very welcomed. Everyone says what a unique place Ufford is and they're right!

Cressida Pye & Andrew Pilkington

I'm Going! But only as far as Eyke

When I moved into a temporary rental in 2 Lady Cottages last October, and was immediately made to feel welcome by all the Church Lane folk and many in The White Lion, I very soon decided that it was my aspiration to stay in Ufford.

I have never lived anywhere quite like it. My life has involved living in various locations, culminating in twenty-six years in Woodbridge, followed by a mistaken couple of years in Aldeburgh. I decided to move on from all that and stay put in Ufford, if I could.

But first, I had to sell a house in Aldeburgh. Oh dear! Markets, tax policies, including the dreaded second-home stuff, not to mention world politics making everyone jittery. It wasn't easy, and it dragged.

Then I was told of a cottage for sale in Eyke. Not Ufford, but not far. In fact one of the first cottages on a road between Ufford and Eyke. But my house was still not sold, though an offer was simmering. I looked at the tiny cottage – just my size and just my price – and expressed an interest. Next day a call from my estate agent informed me that my house was sold, subject to contract. When I met the cottage's vending agent, and he offered his hand to seal a deal, I nearly bit it off.

If all goes well, you'll see and hear a removal van around July or August.

I'll miss my immediate neighbours, but hope to see them in The White Lion, which will remain the first and best 'local' that I have ever had.

Peter Turner

Garden Notes by Nikk Slowey

Nikk Slowey is an instructor in Horticulture at Suffolk Rural College, Otley. She is one of our quarterly contributors to the Garden Notes section

Gardening in Bloom: Early Summer Colour and Dry Days

As early summer settles in, our village gardens are full of life and colour. Roses are opening their first blooms, borders are lush with early perennials, and the air hums with bees and butterflies flitting from flower to flower. The longer days and warm temperatures invite us outside, offering the perfect time to enjoy the fruits of our spring efforts and prepare for the busy months ahead in the garden.

Sunshine… But Where's the Rain?

While the sunshine and dry weather have made for glorious days outdoors, our gardens are beginning to feel the effects of an extended dry spell. Lawns are browning at the edges, and flowerbeds and vegetable patches need more frequent watering to stay healthy.
Now is the time to be water-wise:·

- Water early morning or late evening to reduce evaporation
- Mulch around plants to lock in moisture
- Consider drought-tolerant plant varieties for continued colour and productivity

Practical Gardening Skills

In our recent lessons at college we've focused on some key skills to help make the most of this season.
We began with **lawn care**—timely now, as the dry spell makes good lawn management more important than ever. We covered not just mowing techniques, but also essential mower maintenance: checking the blade sharpness, cleaning the undercarriage, and ensuring safe fuel storage.
For those starting new lawns or repairing patches, we looked at **laying turf** and **sowing grass seed**. And speaking of seeds, we've also explored different sowing methods: **drill sowing**, where seeds are planted in neat rows, and **station sowing**, which gives each plant space to establish itself, ideal for vegetables like beetroot or peas.
Another highlight for our learners this spring was **planting hanging baskets** using the 'thriller, filler, spiller' method—selecting a central showpiece plant (the 'thriller'), surrounding it with bushy companions (the 'fillers'), and letting trailing plants (the 'spillers') cascade over the edges for a full, balanced display.

A Note from the Garden Path

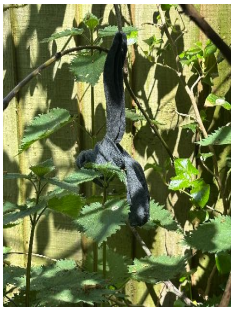
In my work as a freelance horticulturalist, I often see the resilience and unpredictability of plants up close. Just recently, I was asked to help a wonderful customer who needed their house repainted. This meant carefully lowering a mature honeysuckle from its supports on the wall - no small feat, given its size and tangle of stems, made even more tricky by some beautiful Robins nesting in the planting below. Once the painting was done, we gently reattached the honeysuckle to its support, and now, despite the disturbance, it's flowering gloriously once again. Plants never cease to amaze me with their strength and will to thrive,

and the robins all fledged successfully too. A job to be proud of.

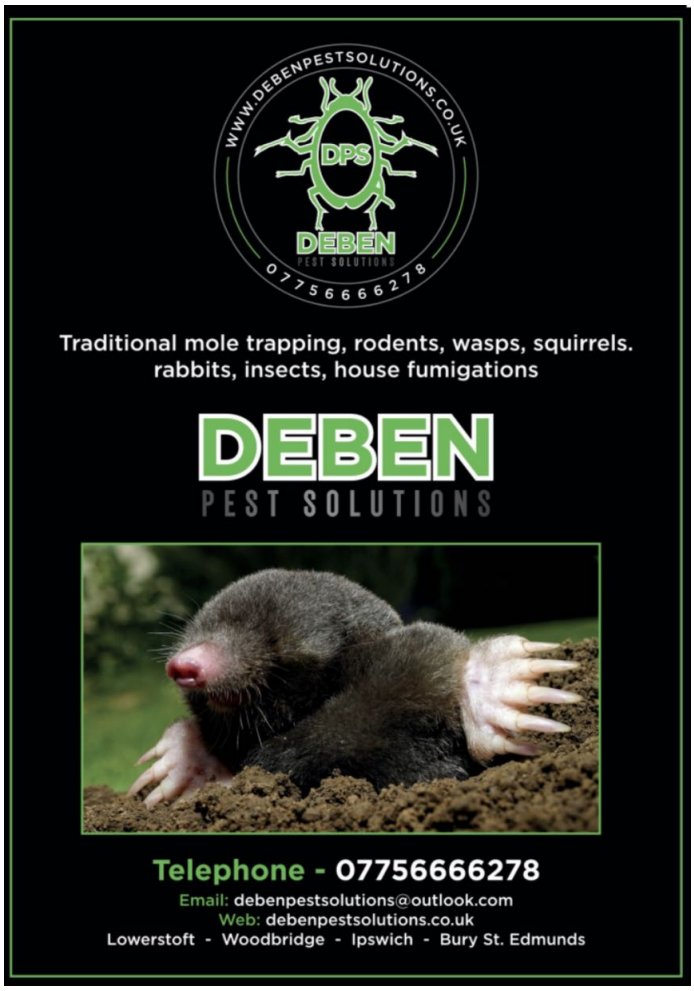
Looking Ahead

As we move further into summer, now is the time to stay on top of watering, deadheading, and feeding to keep gardens at their best. The dry weather may pose a challenge, but with a bit of attention and care, we can keep our outdoor spaces thriving. Whether it's the scent of sweet peas on the breeze, the first ripe tomato on the vine, or the cool green shade under a tree, these are the moments that make gardening so rewarding. Let's make the most of this glorious season—hose in hand, trowel at the ready, and baskets brimming with colour—to keep our village gardens blooming beautifully.

The Avenue in Bloom



The Avenue became the envy of Ufford on the morning of Saturday 3rd May. The once in a decade blooming of the *Soccius Pongia* was witnessed by residents along a fragrant trail from the village signpost to the footpath entrance into Parkland Woods. 'The colours were sensational and the scent unforgettable' commented an excitable nature lover. 'I've heard that as soon they bloom, they quickly die. They did smell as though they were on the way out'. An expert confirmed to the PUNCH that a combination of perfect meteorological conditions and cross-pollination had created the phenomenon. Sadly, some sceptics have put it down to a drunken hoax.



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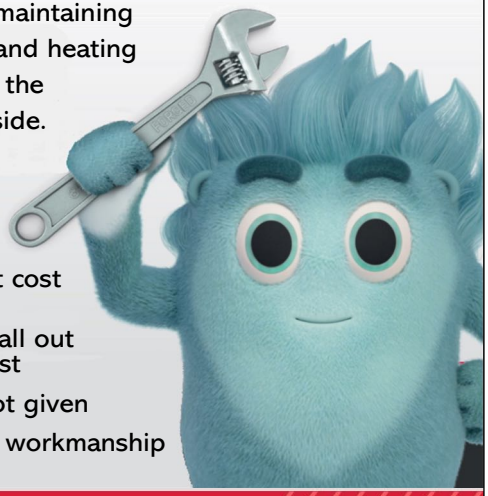

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UFFORD DIARY DATES FOR JUNE

EVENTS

7th June (Sat)	Early Evening Concert in aid of EACH - St. Mary's Church 5.00pm - 6.00pm	
9th & 23rd June (Mon)	Friends of Parklands Wood - Working Party 9.00am	UCH
11th June (Wed)	Ufford Gardening Club - Members' Open Gardens 6.00pm	
12th June (Thu)	Nick's Evening Cycle for MND - Ufford Crown 6.30pm	
14th June (Sat)	St. Elizabeth Hospice Ufford Open Gardens 1.00pm - 5.00pm	
17th June (Tue)	Ufford Parish Council - Meeting 7.00pm	SMPH
18th June (Wed)	Talk by Dr. Sam Newton ('Suffolk's Valley of the Kings') at the White Lion	
19th June (Thu)	White Lion Open Mic Night 7.00pm	
20th June (Fri)	White Lion Golf Day	
25th June (Wed)	Ufford Gardening Club - Visit to Lillesley Barn, Kersey	
26th June (Thu)	UAHG - Visit to Columbine Hall and Lunch	
26th June (Thu)	Neighbourhood Plan - Referendum 7.00am - 10.00pm	SMPH
28th June (Sat)	Regeneration Theatre - 'The Play's The Thing' - a one-person Hamlet	SMPH
28th June (Sat)	Ufford Crown - Music in the Marquee 2.00pm - 5.00pm	

CLASSES AND CLUBS

Tai Chi Classes	Mondays at 2.15pm	UCH
Tennis Club	Mondays and Fridays from 5.00pm	UCH
Boules	Tuesdays at 2.00pm	UCH
Crocodile Rock	Tuesdays 9.45am - 10.45am and 11.15am - 12.00 noon	UCH
Ufford Bell Ringers	Tuesdays 7.30pm - 9.00pm	
Happy Babies	Thursdays 9.30am -10.30am and 11.00am - 12.00 noon	UCH

BRIDGE CLUBS

Ufford Friendly Bridge Club
Mondays 6.30pm **UCH**

U2 Bridge Club
Wednesday 4th and 18th June - 1.45pm **UCH**

WHERE?

SMPH **St Mary's Parish Hall**

UCH **Ufford Community Hall**

The PUNCH Directory

Schedule of events and classes are on the diary dates above

Boules (by tennis court - UCH)
Di Fulcher 01394 460551

Bridge Classes
Mike Fisher
www.mikefisherbridge.com

Carpet Bowls
Di Fulcher 01394 460551

Community Hall
bookings.uch@gmail.com

Crocodile Rock
crocodilerock.music@gmail.com

Cycle Club
Stephen Thurlow 01394 460770

Deben Probus Club
John Hickling 01728 746322
johnhickling@uwclub.net

Footpath Warden
Rilla Forge
r.forge.upc@gmail.com

Friends of Parklands Wood
Rilla Forge
r.forge.upc@gmail.com

Happy Babies
hello@happy-babies.co.uk

Helping Ufford Group (HUG)
Hotline: 07595 970139
helpinguffordgroup@gmail.com

Parish Council & website
Clerk: Judi Hallett
01394 411405 / 07739 411927
www.ufford-suffolk-pc.gov.uk

Parish Church Committee
Karen Eyres 01394 460455
k.eyres@btopenworld.com

PUNCHLine
Tig Thomas 07710 882559
PUNCHline@uffordpunch.org.uk

St Mary's Parish Hall
Karen Eyres 01394 460455
k.eyres@btopenworld.com

Tennis Club
Chris Cage 01394 461082

U2 Bridge Club
Adrian Smith 01394 461179

Ufford Art History Group
Jenny Searle 01394 460317

Ufford Arts Festival
Jeremy Eyres 07739 330398

Ufford Basketball Club
Daniel Metz
uffordbasketball@gmail.com

Ufford Bell Ringers
Kate Eagle 07765 252515
kate.eagle1@gmail.com

Ufford Friendly Bridge Club
Lyn Taylor 01394 460253

Ufford Gardening Club
Sheila Creswick 01394 547658
sheila@creswick.uk
www.uffordgardeningclub.org.uk

Ufford Players Theatre
Jackie Wilks 01423 333167

Ufford Tai-Chi
Ray Norris 01394 383076
www.suffolktaichiacademy.uk

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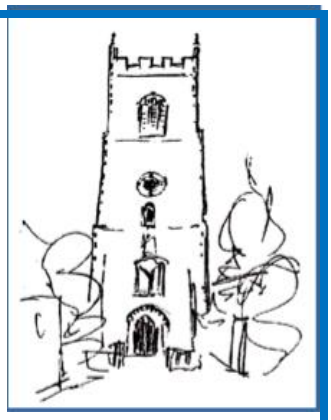

As I write this article, Pope Leo XIV has been Pope for exactly one week. As the world waited in anticipation, resounding joy could be heard as the smoke bellowed white from the chimney and the world met Pope Leo. Meanwhile in the Church of England, we wait for the next Archbishop of Canterbury and indeed our own bishop. Our Bishops are called to be our shepherds after Christ the good shepherd.

As I ponder my own ministry and where God may be leading me and indeed may be leading us as a parish, I'm often brought back to the importance of being present with the people who we are called to serve. Sometimes these situations are intentional, sometimes they happen by coincidence, but they are spirit led and God-given. Each of the experiences that perhaps we have day-to-day will show us signs and glimpses of God's glory in all that we do.

There are also those times in our life where perhaps God's love for God's glory seems far off. It is then that we can be assured that Jesus is indeed the good Shepherd, the one who cares for and loves us all unconditionally.

The Good Shepherd does not care about social standing or appearance; does not care about our gender, our wealth or sexuality or anything other than the person He created us to be, created out of love, wonder, praise and glory.

At both our churches in Melton and Ufford, all that we do is for the praise and glory of Jesus' name as we continue to be a place of welcome, hospitality and humility, seeking and longing for the love of Christ the good Shepherd.

With my prayers
Fr. Paul

Worship at Ufford & Melton

Everyone is welcome at all Services

JUNE

Sun 1st Easter 7
08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Melton
10.00 am Parish Eucharist at Ufford
10.00 am Morning Worship at Melton

Sun 8th Pentecost
08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Ufford
10.00 am Eucharist at Melton

Sun 15th Trinity Sunday
08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Melton
10.00am Parish Eucharist at Ufford
10.00am Morning Worship at Melton

Sun 22nd Trinity 1
08.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Ufford
10.00 am Eucharist at Melton

Sun 29th Trinity 2
10.00 am **Benefice** Eucharist at Melton

LIVE CHURCH CALENDAR
www.uffordchurch.org

Food Bank donations welcome to the 'Little Pantry 'at St Andrew's Church, Melton with a collection Box in Ufford Church porch.

Thank you. **Jenny Searle**

THANK YOU!
To all those who supported the Goldcrest Ensemble concert which raised £884 for Alzheimer's Research UK (next concert "Guitar & choral" 7th June at 5:00pm)

Online prayer resources:
https://pray-as-you-go.org/home/
https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer

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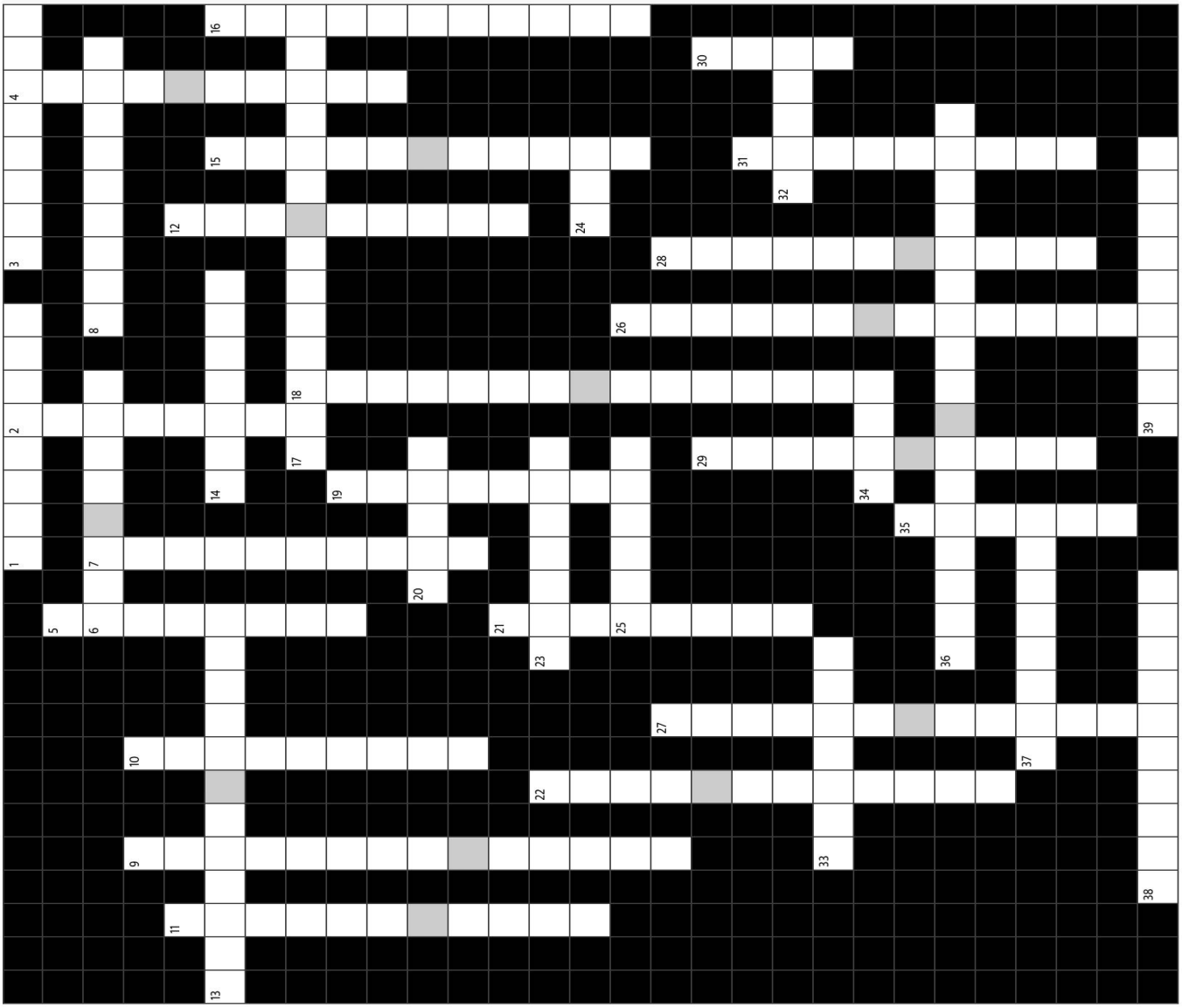

across

1 Window Cleaners
3 T. Humphrey
6 Home of the Deben Cafe Bar
8 TV Aerials
13 Pub on the High Street
14 All About .....
17 J4G Design
20 .... Pest Solutions
23 E.W.Revett & Son
24 Vehicle Maintenance
25 Fred Olsen
32 Groundworks & Surfacing
33 JJ Design transforming .....
34 Ryder-Davies & Partners
36 E.B. Button & Sons
37 Sleepsafe
38 Aaron Nobbs ... Ltd
39 Gardening Maintenance

down

2 Physiotherapy
4 Plumbing and Heating
5 The Suffolk Sweep
7 Baylham Joinery
9 Interior Design
10 TD Painter and .....
11 LQ Resorts
12 Interior Textiles
15 Lawn Treatment
16 John Boon
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